

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6129

BILL NUMBER: HB 1294

DATE PREPARED: Feb 14, 2002

BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2002

SUBJECT: Inmate Copayments for Medical Services.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill increases the maximum permissible copayment for medical, dental, eye, and other health care services from not more than \$10 to not more than \$15 for certain persons confined in the county jail.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: County Sheriffs would not experience an increase in administrative time or cost regarding the provisions of this bill.

Explanation of Local Revenues: County Sheriffs could possibly experience an increase in revenues from inmate copayments used to help defray the cost of medical, dental, eye, and other health care-related services for certain inmates. The amount of additional monies collected is indeterminable and would depend upon local action.

Background

Currently, county jails are allowed to collect up to \$10 from inmates to help defray the cost of medical, dental, eye, and other health care services. Monies are typically deposited into a County Medical Care for Inmates Fund to defray on-site medical facility costs, or are distributed directly to off-site medical facilities (such as county hospitals) where inmate medical services are provided.

Typically, when an individual is placed into custody at a county jail, the prisoner provides a certain sum of

money that is deposited into the respective prisoner's trust fund. From this trust fund, monies are transferred electronically to the prisoner's commissary fund in order to pay for items purchased by the prisoner, such as cigarettes, personal items, etc.

It is from these two funds that a prisoner's copayment for medical treatment is withdrawn. Annual revenues from medical copayments vary depending upon the size of the county jail, as well as upon the number of inmates who choose to seek medical attention.

Counties contacted by Legislative Services Agency report annual inmate copayment revenues ranging from approximately \$800 to \$20,000, depending upon the size of the county.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County Sheriffs.

Information Sources: County Sheriffs Survey by Legislative Services Agency.